Collected item

Expected delivery date/time at collection center

Delivery date/time

Actual collection quantity

5      Expected collection quantity

Definite collection quantity

Number of recycling plans


● Manufacturer, seller information, distributor

10    information

Manufacturer ID and password

Seller ID and password

Salesman ID and password

Serviceman ID and password

15    Warehouse ID and password

Expediter ID and password


[Ordering sequence and screen]

    FIG. 4 is a diagram showing an example of an ordering

20    sequence for toner cartridges.  FIGS. 5 to 9 are diagrams

showing examples of screens displayed on the terminal 41

of the user 4 when ordering toner cartridges.  The processes

of the steps in the flowchart of FIG. 4 are carried out as

the CPU 1501 executes processes based on the program code

25    stored in the main storage or auxiliary storage of the

terminal 41.

First, the user 4 accesses the main server 81 via the
terminal 41. Specifically, the user 4 specifies the URL
(Uniform Resource Locator) of the main server 81 using a
Web browser or other software running on the terminal 41.

5   In response, the main server 81 supplies data (hereinafter
referred to as "HTML data") written in HTML (HyperText
Markup Language) and corresponding to a log-in screen to
the terminal 41, whose monitor then displays the log-in
screen shown in FIG. 5

10  Incidentally, according to the present invention, to
supply or provide data/information means for sending
data/information. For example, the act of providing or
supplying data/information from the main server 81 to the
terminal 41 and the act of providing or supplying

15  data/information from the terminal 41 to the main server
81 include a sending process of data/information by
communications means installed in the equipment.

In Step S1 shown in FIG. 4, the user 4 enters his/her
user ID which corresponds to his/her customer number,

20  enters his/her password, and then presses an [OK] button
to inform the main server 81 of the user ID and password.
That is, the user ID and password are sent from the terminal
41 to the main server 81 according to the instructions
entered by the user. Incidentally, it is assumed that each

25  user (office or business place) of a printer has been
informed of a user ID and password by the seller 3. The
present invention also allows for a form in which the main

server 81 informs the terminal 41 of the user ID and password.

When informed of the user ID and password by the terminal 41, the main server 81 judges in Step S2 whether
5   a user who corresponds to the user ID and password exists, by referencing the customer information database. The fact that the customer information database is referenced by the main server 81 means that the customer information database is referenced. If it is judged that a
10   corresponding user exists, the main server 81 approves the user, generates HTML data which corresponds to an ordering screen, and supplies it to the terminal 41. When the terminal 41 receives the supplied ordering screen information, its monitor displays the ordering screen shown
15   in FIG. 6.

The ordering screen shown in FIG. 6 is a display example of the display information sent from the main server to the terminal 41 in Step S2 in FIG. 4. It consists mainly of a toner cartridge list 101 compatible with the equipment
20   used by the user, settlement method selection section 102, delivery time specification section 103, and collection service registration section 104 for used toner cartridges. Regarding the delivery time specification section 103, it is desirable that a pull-down menu form should be used so
25   that the part enclosed in [] pulls down to allow the user to specify a business day excluding holidays. In that case, a message should be displayed stating: "Select a desired